

**REMARKS**

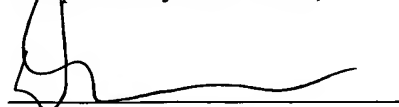
The Office Action dated March 23, 2006 has been received and reviewed by the Applicant. Claims 1-11 are pending in the application. Claims 1-3 and 6 stand rejected. Claims 7-11 are allowed. Claims 4-5 are objected to. Claim 1 is hereby amended. Claim 4 is hereby canceled. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims as amended is requested for the following reasons.

Claims 1-3 and 6 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,727,430 to Miwa, et al. Independent claim 1 has been amended to clarify the invention in its several embodiments and is patently distinguishable with respect to Miwa, et al which, as the Examiner states, does not teach or suggest finding the most frequent screen characteristic value computed for said pixels in said region and assigning said most frequent screen characteristic value to each one of said pixels in said region. Claims 3 and 6 are also in a condition for allowance because they depend on allowable base claims. Claim 4 has been canceled. Claim 5 in a condition for allowance because it depends on an allowable base claim. Applicant respectfully asserts that the rejection made pursuant to Section 102(b) has been traversed.

For the reasons set forth above, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and favorable action are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees in connection with this communication to Eastman Kodak Company Deposit Account No. 05-0225. *A duplicate copy of this communication is enclosed.*

Respectfully submitted,



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If the Examiner is unable to reach the Applicant(s) Attorney at the telephone number provided, the Examiner is requested to communicate with Eastman Kodak Company Patent Operations at (585) 477-4656.